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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	<i>Application No.</i>	09/842,127
	<i>Filing Date</i>	April 26, 2001
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Reginald C. SHIVERICK
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2172
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Baoquoc N. To
	<i>Attorney Docket No.</i>	2589-101
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AND METHOD		

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SEP 29 2003
Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 25, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application based on the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolnick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,317) ("Bolnick"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The present invention provides an information retrieval system and method. A filtering query is generated by specifying at least one query operator from selected data groupings of a filter tree table. The filtering query is run against an unfiltered data table containing items of data, and a filtered data table is created by receiving one or more data items filtered from the unfiltered data table in response to the filtering query and placing the received data items in the filtered data table. The data items are displayed in the filtered data table, and filter data is displayed in the filter tree table. A user input that selects or de-selects a data grouping to be filtered and displayed is accepted, and upon receipt of the user input, the system branches back to the generating step.